

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

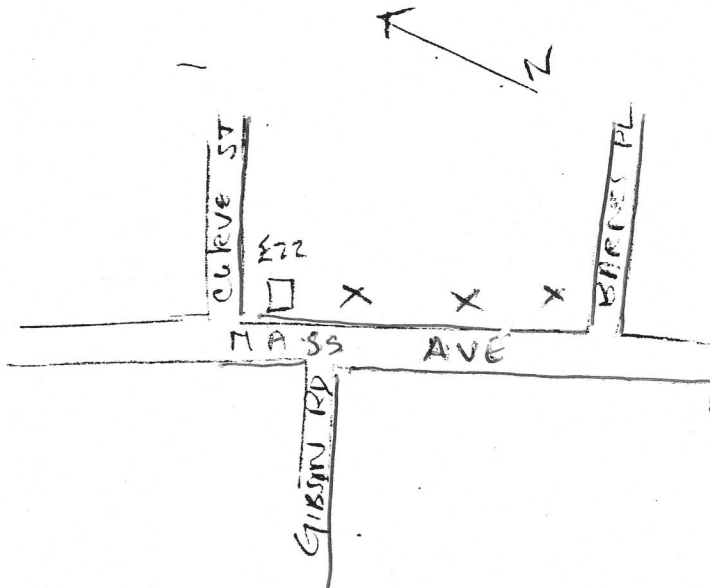
OCT 75



In Area no. E, P	Form no. 222
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own Lexington
 Address 805 Mass. Ave.
 Name Augustus Childs Bldg.
 Present use Offices (lawyer)
 Present owner APM + WCM Realty Trust
 Description:
 Date 1875
 Source Minute-man, 1/1/1876
 Style Italianate

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric _____
 Outbuildings (describe) _____
 Other features Gable end to street, full two stories high, brick foundation. Entrance altered 1974.

Altered _____ Date _____
 Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 60'
 Approximate distance of building from street 15'

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by Ann Grady
 Organization Lex. Hist. Com.
 Date 7/75

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Augustus Childs

Original use Post Office for E. Lex; store

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates formerly Wardrobe's pharmacy until 1973

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Worthen 1 p. 60 When the present store building at the lower corner of Curve St. was built, Mr. Childs moved with the Post Office to the new building. East Lex. P. O. had originally been in the Brick Store. 1836-1867. When Augustus Childs was appointed postmaster, Childs moved P. O., first to old Adams School* building, now demolished, then to this site.

* Note: The "Adams" School referred to here was the former one-room district school house which stood where # 803 Mass. Ave. currently is. (McCormack Building).

Descrip: cont: land to rear makes two story gable roof addition possible. One small chimney, center ridge.

Historical significance (continued)

See photo in the collection of the Lexington Historical Society, c. 1885.

S. Lawrence Whipple, 1984

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Ed Worthen. Calendar History of Lexington.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
805 MASS. AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

E

222

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

According to E.B. Worthen, in the late 19th to early 20th century there were three buildings on the northeast side of Main Street below Curve Street: the post office (this building), Chisholm's harness shop (803 Mass Ave.) and Carl Mandelberg's carriage house (no longer extant). When Augustus Childs was appointed postmaster in 1867, he was operating a small grocery store in the building later owned by Mandelberg which had originally constructed in 1837 as a schoolhouse. It was only used as a school until 1858 and then it was moved across the street where it became Augustus Child's grocery store and initially the post office was located there as well. In 1875, this building at 805 Massachusetts Avenue was constructed and Childs moved the grocery store and post office here. The cellar was used for a stable and harness room. The second floor was occupied as a barber shop. The post office boxes occupied the left side of the street floor and the grocery counter was on the right side. The large back room stored extra stock. Augustus' son, Carlton Childs was appointed postmaster in 1895. In 1900 Lucius Austin was appointed postmaster and continued to operate here. The office was discontinued in 1909 with the establishment of free delivery (Worthen: 49-50; Hudson, vol. 1, p. 296). Austin continued to operate a groceries and provisions store here until about 1915.

By 1942 this building contained Wardrobe's Drug Store. The store remained here until 1973.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*.

Lexington Directories, various dates.

Lexington Minute-man, January 1, 1876 (see below).

Worthen, Edwin B. *Tracing the Past in Lexington, Massachusetts*. New York: Vantage Press, 1998.

Supplement prepared by:
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June 2009



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Source: Beverly Allison Kelley, *Lexington: A Century of Photographs*, p. 132.